Salvage and Deconstruction: “Un-Building” the Original House

PLANNING FOR SAFETY: Dave Bennink of RE-USE Consulting created a zonal deconstruction plan for the project, which he nicknamed “No Room for Error” due to the extremely tight lot. The December, 2006, weather added more complications: 60 mph wind gusts, torrential downpours, and snow.

SALVAGING MATERIALS FOR RE-USE ON THE PROJECT: As the first step, RE-USE Consulting salvaged materials the owners had selected for reuse in their new home.

FUTURE WINE RACKS: Outside the house, the crew salvaged decking to be used to build wine racks for the new home’s wine cellar.

Other usable materials (shower stall, vanity, dishwasher, etc.) were salvaged to be sold through RE-USE’s on-line used building materials website, www.re-use.us. While deconstruction continues, the shower stall has already been purchased and is on its way to Alaska to be installed in a fishing lodge!
DECONSTRUCTING THE GARAGE: With only about 7 hours of usable daylight at this time of year, the crew had to move quickly but safely. The detached garage was gone in just over a day’s work.

TAKING OFF THE ROOF: Now the ‘heavy lifting’ really gets going, as the crew takes apart the roof, ceiling, and walls.

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST: The crew finds calculations penciled by a carpenter decades ago hidden in the east wall of the living room.
CLOSING THE LOOP: The owner’s son, working on his own home, saw an ad on-line for salvaged fir floorboards. Only after he called RE-USE did he find out they came from his parents’ home! RE-USE was happy to donate the flooring for his project.

WHERE DID IT ALL GO?: Paneling, siding flooring, and even cedar shingles were sold or given away, instead of winding up in a landfill. The shingles, for example, were purchased to be used on a child’s playhouse. For a detailed report prepared by Dave Bennink of RE-USE Consulting, click here.

READY TO REBUILD: After just six days (150 labor hours), the result is a clean site ready for Chaffey Homes to begin excavation.

Going Green at the Beach would like to thank Dave Bennink of RE-USE Consulting (www.reuseconsulting.com) for generously donating his time and expertise in salvage and deconstruction for this project. Dave can be reached at (360) 360-201-6977 or re-use@comcast.net.